

IAU Horizons 29.1

Call for papers:

Universities and the Interplay of Human Intelligence and Generative AI

Today, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is already omnipresent in our daily lives, both in the devices we use at work and in our private lives¹. AI is not new in the sense that its development started alongside the first computers. In 1948, Alan Turing proposed to “investigate the question whether it is possible for machinery to show intelligent behavior”.² From the very beginning, there has been a quest to examine to what extent the machine can imitate human intelligence. The development of AI has therefore always been intrinsically linked to the understanding of human intelligence. More than 70 years later, in November 2022, OpenAI launched the first public version of ChatGPT. In only two months, it reached 100 million monthly active users, demonstrating the rapid uptake of the tool. This new form of ‘generative AI’ is different from the AI that we already use in our interactions with phones, computers, and other smart devices. It is different in the sense that beyond processing data to establish patterns, it can generate content based on user inputs and prompts.

This simplified introduction to AI aims to illustrate that we are at yet another important crossroads in the history of humanity, where technological developments propose new features that imitate or extend capabilities that used to be unique to humans. The invention of the printed press, radio, television, computer, Internet, smartphones and other smart devices are examples of other technological inventions that have impacted how humans communicate, disseminate, and access information. Now that generative AI is accessible to the public at large, it poses questions about its use in society. This overlapping juncture between the capabilities of humans and machines points towards essential questions about what it means to be human. It generates new possibilities that force us to redefine what it means to learn, how to assess learning and to generate knowledge. By extension it asks how generative AI impacts universities and higher education?

As stated in the preamble of the IAU Policy Statement on Digital Transformation: “*The pace of [technological] development tests human capacity for understanding, analysing and regulating new opportunities and risks*”³ - generative AI is a good example of that. It seems to be developing faster than we have the capacity to regulate it. What does this imply for higher education? What are the opportunities that can be explored and what are the threats that must be addressed to avoid misuse?

In the upcoming ‘In Focus’ section of *IAU Horizons*, we aim to bring together multiple perspectives and reflections on how generative AI impacts higher education. We wish to demonstrate the breadth of the impacts whether it concerns the future of teaching and learning, the impact on pedagogy and cognition, and how we carry out assessments or conduct research. Likewise, the aim is to shed light on the problems around inequalities, the ethical issues related to data representation, quality, veracity, ownership and curation, and how it interweaves with academic values and codes of conduct. The purpose is to bring together both the voices of concern as well as the visionary aspirations. This is a non-exhaustive list of examples of what could be addressed.

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<https://www.brut.media/fr/science-and-technology/penser-l-intelligence-artificielle-avec-asma-mhalla-brut-philo-34136208-080a-4356-a900-d4dd07201f85>

² <https://weightagnostic.github.io/papers/turing1948.pdf>

³ IAU Policy Statement on digital transformation:

https://www.iau-aiu.net/IMG/pdf/iau_policy_statement_dt_2022.pdf

To discuss the important questions relating to Universities and the Interplay of Human Intelligence and Generative AI, the IAU calls for thought pieces of a maximum 800 words. [Please submit a proposed abstract](#) by 8 February 2024

Deadline for submission of the full opinion piece is 1 March 2024

For more information or questions, please contact: [Trine Jensen](#)